

REMARKS

Consideration of the amendments to the claims and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action is respectfully requested. Claims 1-27 are now present in the application. Claims 1-11 and 16-23 are withdrawn from further consideration. Claim 12 has been amended. New claims 24-27 have been added.

Support for the amendment of claim 12 and new claims 24-27 may be found throughout the specification including, without limitation, page 5 of the specification.

In response to the Examiner's observations in the Office Action, neither Lewark nor Eggiman disclose the use of compression materials to bond an overlay to a bat handle upon curing as claimed in claim 12. Further, neither Lewark nor Eggiman disclose the use of compression materials to bond an overlay to a bat handle upon curing wherein the overlay member becomes an integral part of the bat handle upon curing as claimed in claim 24. In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all of the claims currently under consideration in the Application are allowable and respectfully asks the Examiner to reconsider the Application. If the Examiner believes that further communication with the Applicant or the Applicant's counsel will be beneficial to the pending Application, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's counsel directly by telephoning (619) 525-2553.

Respectfully submitted,


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3/2/04
Date